

Serial No.: 09/903,904
Group Art Unit: 2173

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The office action has allowed claims 1-9 for the reason that the prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination of claimed elements recited in claims 1-9 in light of the specification. Therefore, Applicant has amended claims 10-19 to include allowable subject matter and now believes claims 1-19 are now allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by IBM Technical Bulletin, "Computer Input Device Via Nerve Signal," August 1989 (hereinafter "IBM").

With regard to claim 10, Applicant has amended the claim so the combination includes the allowable subject matter of:

"predefining a set of combinations of hand digit movements, each combination of hand digit movements representing a specific character;"
predefining a character mapping table which maps each combination of hand digit movements predefined to the specific character".

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable under 35 USC §102(a) as not being anticipated by IBM.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 11-19 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM in view of Fukumoto et al. (USPN 6,380,923, hereinafter "Fukumoto").

With regard to dependent claims 11-16, these claims depend from the amended independent claim 10 and are believed to be allowable since they contain all the limitations set forth in the independent claims from which they depend and claim non-obvious combinations thereof.

With regard to independent claims 17-19, these claims have been amended so the combination includes allowable subject matter related to predefining a set of combinations of

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hand digit movements and predefining a mapping table, which maps each combination of hand digit movements.

Based on all the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-19 are allowable under 35 USC §103(a) as being unobvious based on IBM in view of Fukumoto.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 1-19 at an early date is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0374 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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